

Upper Shoal Creek Watershed Protection - A Section 319 Clean Water Grant Project

Water Pollution Control Program fact sheet

3/2003

What is the Upper Shoal Creek Watershed Protection Project?

This five-year project includes the development of litter (manure) management plans for poultry production farms in the Upper Shoal Creek watershed in Barry and Newton counties. One-on-one assistance is available to the area's 70 poultry producers for the purpose of setting up nutrient management plans specific to their farms. Several production farms are being used as demonstration sites for the purpose of sharing best management practices with other poultry producers. Information sheets are being developed to provide additional guidance and public meetings are to be held locally to share information on poultry litter management.

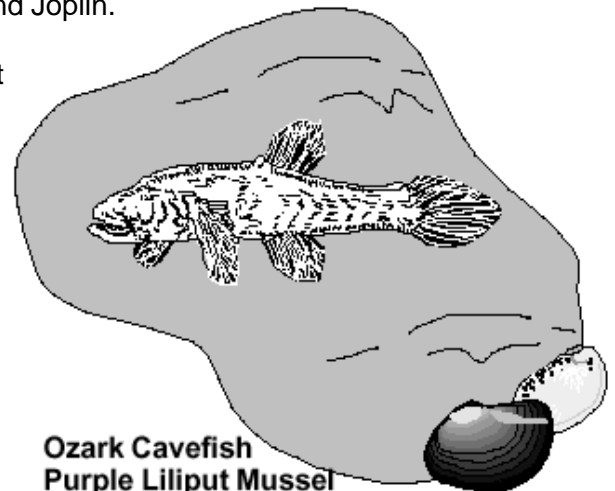
Why be concerned?

Poultry litter is a nutrient-rich fertilizer, but when applied excessively to the land it can contaminate soil and water. At the time the project started southwest Missouri's annual poultry production generated approximately 475,000 tons of litter annually, and production is increasing. Nitrogen and phosphorus losses from litter disposal sites can cause health hazards as well as the impairment of recreational activities in local streams, rivers and lakes. Along the 61-mile stretch of Shoal Creek, located in Barry, Newton and Jasper counties, water is used for livestock, wildlife, aquatic life and industrial processes. Most importantly, the creek provides public drinking water for over 56,000 people in the cities of Neosho and Joplin.

Shoal Creek is the home of several aquatic creatures that are on the endangerment watch list. The Ozark Cavefish is a resident of the Shoal Creek watershed and inhabits the same caves as the endangered Gray Bat.

Endangered

The Ozark Cavefish is not only state endangered, but is a federally-threatened species as well. The state-endangered Purple Liliput Mussel can also be found in Shoal Creek.



What is the purpose of this project?

This project will encourage farmers to adopt environmentally sound poultry litter management practices. These best management practices (BMPs) for poultry litter application sites are designed to reduce nutrient transports to surface and ground water. An additional purpose is to inform and educate citizens about BMPs that minimize nonpoint pollution. Nonpoint water pollution occurs when polluted runoff water reaches creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes or underground water systems. Nonpoint sources include soil erosion, animal waste runoff, fertilizer runoff, pesticide runoff and urban stormwater runoff containing a variety of contaminants.



Who oversees this project?

Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), Inc. is the lead project coordinator. Cooperating in this project are the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Missouri Extension Service, Hammons Products Company, Simmons Industries, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., George's, Butterball Turkey Co., Hudson Foods and MOARK.

How is this project funded?

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act provides funding for nonpoint source water pollution control projects. Fifty-five percent of this \$688,545 project is funded by a Section 319 grant from EPA through the department. Forty-five percent of the project is supported by matching funds and in-kind services from Southwest Missouri RC&D, Inc., NRCS, MDC, Hammons Products Company and local poultry companies and their producers.

For more information call or write:

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(www.dnr.state.mo.us/wpscd/wpcp/homewpcp.htm) Program Home Page

Inquiries may also be directed to the Southwest Missouri RC&D, Inc., office by calling (417) 732-6485.